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## Bonn Espionage Service Center of Controversy

BONN, Germany (AP) — West Germany's intelligence service is again in the center of a public debate.

The controversy was set off when Der Spiegel charged that this country's equivalent of the Central Intelligence Agency has become an inefficient bureaucracy that Chancellor Willy Brandt doesn't trust.

The news magazine's claims have resulted in a series of denials and counter claims.

Since it came into being, the intelligence service's role has been to collect information about foreign countries. During the cold war it concentrated on East Europe and enjoyed a high regard among other Western intelligence agencies.

But in an examination of its operations during the past two years Der Spiegel said:

- o The service relies for information and analysis more on the Swiss newspaper Neue Zuercher Zeitung than on its own agents.
- o An official in charge of assigning agents regularly consults an astrologer.
- o Brandt's office has demanded and received the names and code names of all agents in East Europe, thus seriously endangering their security.

Der Spiegel said the service failed to predict last December's troubles in Poland, so Brandt had no warning that a leadership change there was imminent when he left for Warsaw to sign the Polish-German treaty on Dec. 6.

The former defense and finance minister, Franz Josef Strauss, said the demand for agents' names neutralized the operation in East Europe. Strauss heads the Christian Social Union, which, with the Christian Democrats, forms the opposition.

The government countered with a denial that Brandt's office ever asked for the agents' names.

Government spokesman Konrad Adenauer also denied a Spiegel claim that the West German service has lost the confidence of allied services like the CIA and the British Secret Service. "The exact opposite is true," he said.

The Bundesnachrichtendienst, or federal intelligence service, is no stranger to controversy.

It came to life as the Organization Gehlen in the service of the United States while Germany was still under occupation.

Lt. Gen. Reinhard Gehlen, chief of the German general staff's military intelligence on the Eastern front during World War II surrendered to the United States in the war's final months and started to work for his captors.

Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's fledgling West German government took over the service when the occupation ended.

Gehlen retired in 1953. His successor, Lt. Gen. Kurt Wessel, is an associate from World War II.